

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15 (cancelled).

16 (previously presented). An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
a charger member disposed in contacting relation with the image bearing member, and
having a rubber hardness of 40 to 90 degrees and a volume electrical resistance of 1×10^4 to 1×10^{10}
 $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ at its portion contacting the image bearing member;
a developing device including a developer carrying member for carrying a toner on its
surface, a storage portion for storing the toner containing an organic aromatic solvent and a vinyl
monomer in combined concentrations of not more than 500 ppm, and a regulating member disposed
in contacting relation with the surface of the developer carrying member for regulating the amount
of toner carried on the developer carrying member, the developing device operating to form a toner
image on the image bearing member; and
a transfer member for transferring the toner image thus formed on the image bearing
member onto a receiving medium.

17 (previously presented). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein
the charger member is a charger roller comprising a metallic roller and a surface layer laid over an
outer periphery of the roller.

18 (previously presented). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein
the surface layer has a rubber hardness of 50 to 80 degrees and a volume electrical resistance of
 1×10^5 to $1 \times 10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

19 (previously presented). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the toner contains the organic aromatic solvent and the vinyl monomer in combined concentrations of not more than 300 ppm.

20 (previously presented). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the transfer member is a transfer roller.

21 (previously presented). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the surface layer includes an elastic layer formed from elastic materials and a coat layer laid over the elastic layer.

22 (previously presented). An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
a charger member disposed in contacting relation with the image bearing member, and having a rubber hardness of 40 to 90 degrees and a volume electrical resistance of 1×10^4 to 1×10^{10} $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ at its portion contacting the image bearing member;
a developing device operating to form a toner image on the image bearing member;
wherein the developing device comprises:
a developer carrying member for carrying a toner on its surface; and a storage portion for storing the toner containing an organic aromatic solvent and a vinyl monomer in combined concentrations of not more than 500 ppm.

Please add the following new claims 23-26.

23 (new). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the charger member has a volume electrical resistance of 1×10^4 to 7×10^5 $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ at its portion contacting the image bearing member.

24 (new). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the charger member has a volume electrical resistance of 1×10^4 to $7 \times 10^5 \Omega \text{ cm}$ at its portion contacting the image bearing member.

25 (new). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the charger member includes an electroconductive material.

26 (new). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the charger member includes an electroconductive material.